MARVEL
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DAREDEVIL
THE MA T FEAR!
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MAY
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THE DEVIL YOU SAY!

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IT FILLS THE AIR, SWELLS HEARTS, SOFTENS EYES, FLUSHES CHEEKS.
LOVE, AS TANGIBLE AND PERVASIVE AS THE GENTLE SNOWFALL.
"...ALL IS CALM. ♫ ♫ ALL IS BRIGHT..."
A LOVE THAT SNEAKS IN AND SURPRISES EVEN THE HARDEST HEARTS.
LIPS SMILE. FINGERS ENTWINE.
SNOW IS ON THE GROUND, A SONG IS IN THE AIR, GOD IS IN HEAVEN.
♫ "...SLEE-EEP IN HEAVENLY ♫ ♪ PEACE..."
SNAGGED ME A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
HOPE IT'S A RADIO.

FIRST TIME IN YEARS THE WHOLE FAMILY WILL BE TOGETHER...
SO THE OLD SCROOGE COUGHED UP A BIG BONUS FOR ME AFTER ALL...
WELL, BABY, I KNOW WHO YOU CAN SPEND IT ON...!
I GOT THE BIGGEST, BEST PRESENT FOR YOU, BUNKY...
LET'S GET HOME SO I CAN UNWRAP IT!

AN' THEY EXPLODE IN YER BELLY?
NO, NO! THEY GET BIGGER WHEN YOU COOK 'EM, AN' CRACK OUT OF THEIR SHELLS!
I WANNA WHOLE BAG!
CHESTNUTS ... 1.00
PRETZELS ... .75
HOT COCOA ... .75
1.00
LEMME SEE THE CHESTNUTS! DADDY I CAN'T SEE!

MINE MINE MINE!
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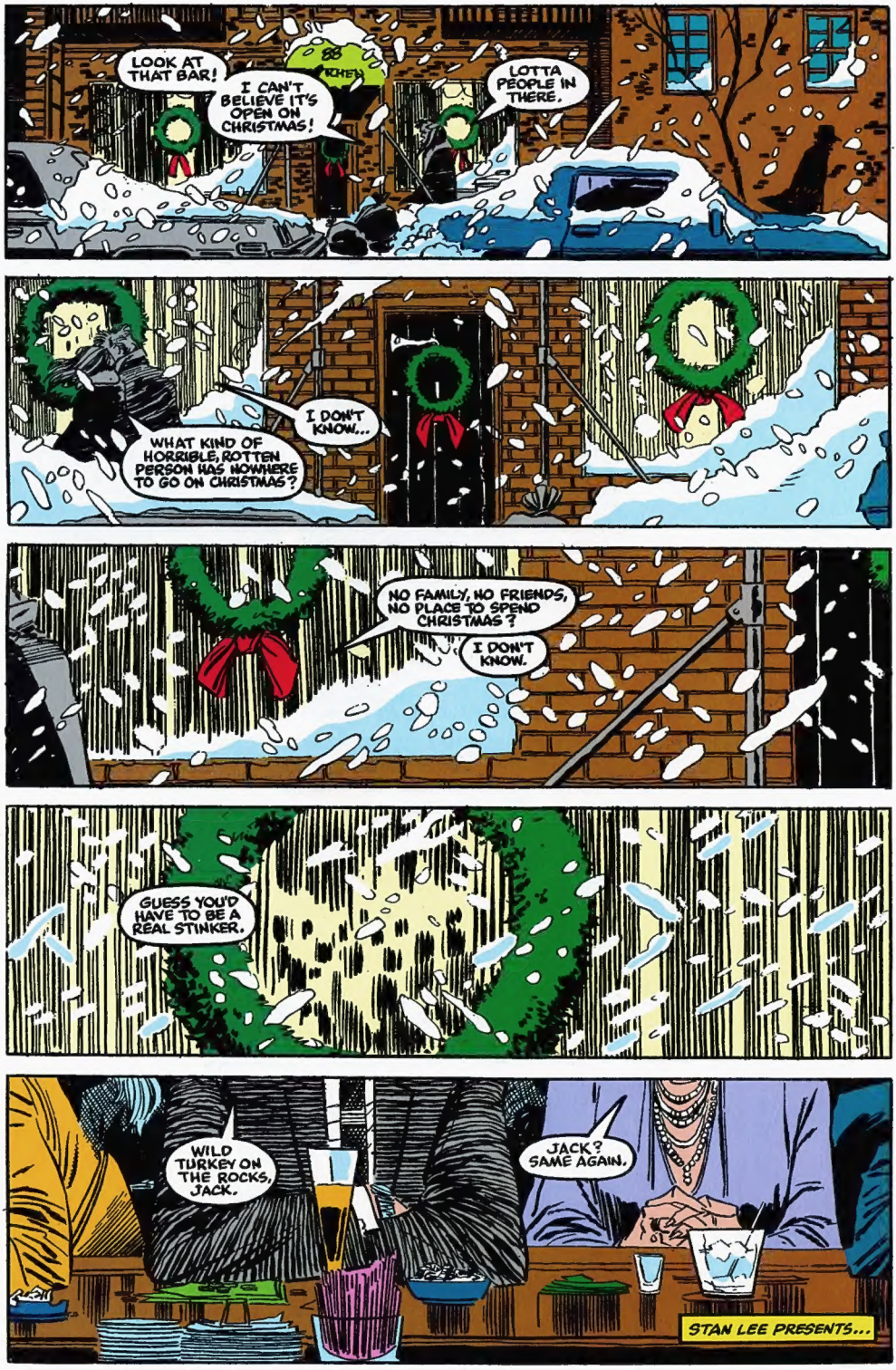
OH, SWEETHEART, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
YOU MAKE ME WALK INTO WALLS, YOU MAKE ME DIZZY...
I FEEL SO...

COLD.
ALWAYS SO COLD.


LOOK AT THAT BAR!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S OPEN ON CHRISTMAS!
LOTTA PEOPLE IN THERE.
WHAT KIND OF HORRIBLE, ROTTEN PERSON HAS NOWHERE TO GO ON CHRISTMAS?
I DON'T KNOW...
NO FAMILY, NO FRIENDS, NO PLACE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS?
I DON'T KNOW.
GUESS YOU'D HAVE TO BE A REAL STINKER.
WILD TURKEY ON THE ROCKS, JACK.
JACK? SAME AGAIN.
STAN LEE PRESENTS...

A BEER WITH THE DEVIL
"GONNA BE A--"
"NOT CHRISTMAS..."
"BY A HOMETOWN NEW YORK BAND-- THE POP TARTS..."
JACK, WHEN YOU GOT A MINUTE? 'NOTHER SCOTCH.
NO PLACE I'D RATHER BE...
THAN RIGHT HERE...
WITH ALL MY FRIENDS...
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
HUH?
NOTHIN'. JUST SAMMY, TALKIN' TO HIS HAT.
GO BACK TO SLEEP.
UMFPH.
I DON'T WANT A BEER, HUGO.

...YOU SEE I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE I'M EXPECTING A PHONE CALL...
...EXPECTING A GENTLEMAN CALLER...
I'M ON MY WAY TO A BIG FAMILY DINNER WITH MY GENTLEMAN'S FAMILY...
ALL RIGHT, JUST ONE...

ISN'T THAT THE NICEST WORD--"GENTLE-MAN"...
I WANT TO LOOK NICE FOR HIM...
DO I LOOK NICE?
AM I STILL... BEAUTIFUL?
OH, I SEE YOU'RE THE SILENT TYPE.

HELLO. MERRY CHRISTMAS.
I'M EXPECTING A CALL...

DO YOU THINK... AM I STILL BEAUTIFUL?
GOOD MOVE, BUDDY.
BEST YOU IGNORE HER TYPE.

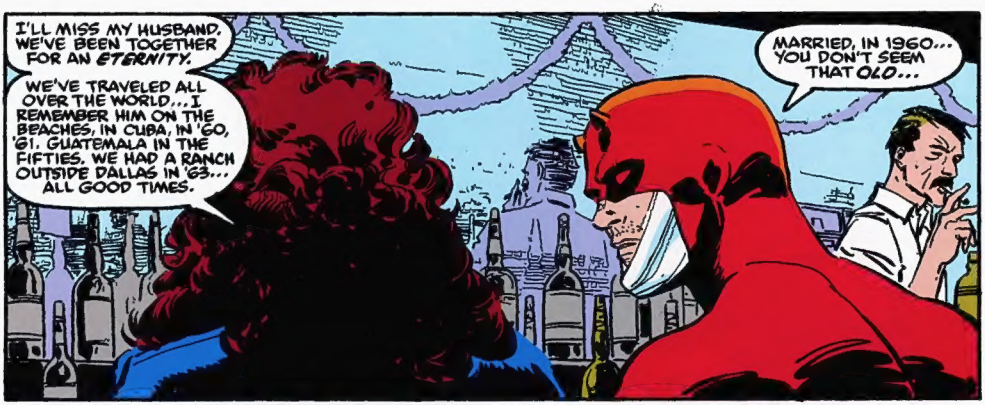
ALL WOMEN, IN FACT.
I LEFT MINE TEN YEARS AGO.

I WAS SITTING WITH MY WIFE MAGGIE, WATCHIN' THIS GAME SHOW ON T.V.
WE STARTED TO FIGHT AS USUAL, ABOUT NOTHIN'.
YOU KNOW--'BOUT HOW LAZY AND WORTHLESS I AM. ME SAYIN' HOW FAT AN' STUPID SHE IS.
THE USUAL.

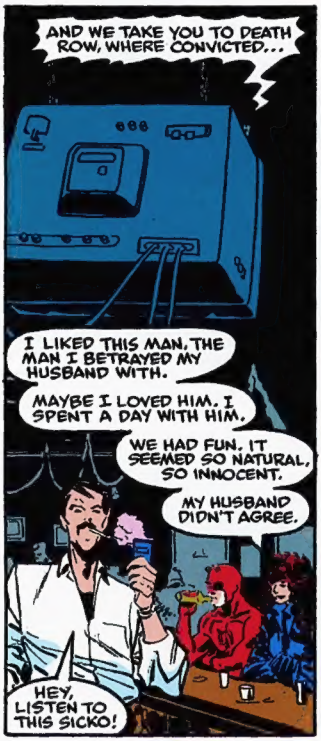
ANYWAY, AS WE FIGHT, I WATCH THIS GAME SHOW.
AND SUDDENLY IT SEEMS TO ME THAT EACH TIME I MAKE A GOOD CRACK, EACH TIME I GET A GOOD ZINGER IN ON OLD MAGGS, THIS BELL RINGS, LIKE THE GAME SHOW WAS KEEPIN' SCORE OF OUR FIGHT!
THEN I GET THIS REAL GOOD INSULT IN, AND MY WIFE IS REALLY SHUT UP FOR A MINUTE! AN' THEN I HEAR ALL THESE BELLS GOING OFF--THE GUY ON THE SHOW HAS WON A NEW CAR!
IT WAS LIKE A MESSAGE FROM GOD, IF THERE IS A T.V. GOD, AND HE'S SAYIN'--YOU WON! YOU CAN LEAVE! SO I DID!
I LEFT HER, CAME HERE, AND I BEEN HERE TEN YEARS!
ANY REGRETS?
YEAH, I WISH I'D TAKEN MY FISHIN' POLE. NOTHIN' LIKE FLY-FISHIN'.
I'LL BE BACK. I GOTTA TAKE A WALK.
COME ON, HECTOR!
ALL RIGHT. PUT 'ER HERE.
YOU KNOW, WE BETTER GO SOON, MOM'LL BE MAD IF WE'RE LATE FOR DINNER.
ONE MORE BEER! COME ON FIGHT, YOU WIMP!
WRESTLE ME! DRINK A BEER WITH YOUR BROTHER! BE BAD FOR ONCE, HECTOR!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
BRRRR.
COLD IN HERE.

ANYONE SITTING HERE?
GUESS NOT.
SOME GUY TOOK MY SEAT!
HEY, BUDDY, THAT'S MY--

BIG HERO LIKE YOU...
SITTIN' ALONE, NURSING A BEER.
MA'AM? YOU SAY SOMETHING?
I SAID...
WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE YOU SAVE, LIVES YOU FIX...
NOT A ONE OF THEM OFFERED TO COOK YOU CHRISTMAS DINNER?
FUNNY, ISN'T IT?
IN THE END, LIFE IS SO UNFAIR. DESPICABLE PEOPLE SIT SURROUNDED BY LOVE AND FAMILIES. HEROES SIT ALONE.
THE WHOLE WORLD IS SO ROTTEN--IT'S ALMOST INGENIOUS.
MAN, THAT OLD TROLLOP FLIRTS WITH EVERYBODY.
HYUK YUK!
YEAH, AND EACH TIME THEY GET UGLIER!
SHE SINKING ALL RIGHT.
NEXT THING YOU KNOW SHE BE FLIRTING WITH YOU!
HAHAHA!
ALL RIGHT, HUGO, ENOUGH. POOR LADY'S PROBABLY JUST LONELY.
YEAH, LONELY FOR ANYTHING THAT MOVES,
HAHA HA!
I'LL TELL YOU WHY I'M HERE,
I BETRAYED MY HUSBAND. HE LEFT ME. SO I FIND MYSELF ALONE, ON CHRISTMAS.
HAVE YOU EVER BETRAYED ANYONE?
YES, AND I'M PAYING FOR IT NOW.
WASN'T IT FUN, THOUGH?
FUN, LADY...
WELL...A HORRIBLE KIND OF FUN. THE KIND OF FUN THAT MAKES YOU HATE YOURSELF.
IF YOU CALL THAT FUN.


I'LL MISS MY HUSBAND. WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR AN ETERNITY.
WE'VE TRAVELED ALL OVER THE WORLD... I REMEMBER HIM ON THE BEACHES, IN CUBA, IN '60, '61. GUATEMALA IN THE FIFTIES. WE HAD A RANCH OUTSIDE DALLAS IN '63... ALL GOOD TIMES.
MARRIED, IN 1960... YOU DON'T SEEM THAT OLD...

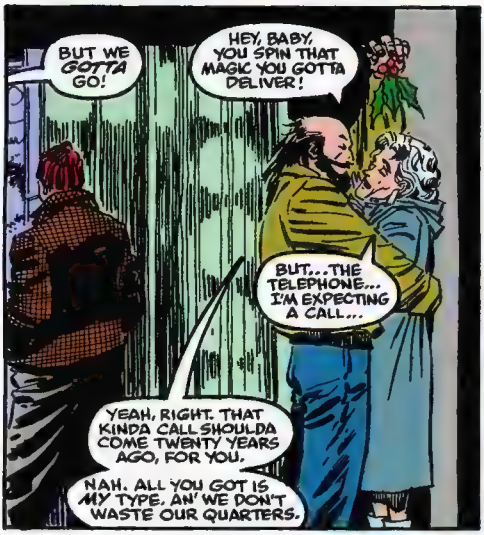
SOMETIMES, YOU DRAW LINES FOR YOURSELF, THAT YOU WON'T CROSS.
THEN IT SEEMS AS IF YOU ONLY DREW THEM TO STEP OVER THEM.
DO YOU THINK, THAT STEALING A DOLLAR IS AS BAD AS STEALING A MILLION?
YES.
MAYBE WORSE.


AND WE TAKE YOU TO DEATH ROW, WHERE CONVICTED...
I LIKED THIS MAN, THE MAN I BETRAYED MY HUSBAND WITH.
MAYBE I LOVED HIM. I SPENT A DAY WITH HIM.
WE HAD FUN. IT SEEMED SO NATURAL, SO INNOCENT.
MY HUSBAND DIDN'T AGREE.
HEY, LISTEN TO THIS SICKO!

YEAH, I'M WAITING FOR THE CHAIR. IT AIN'T SO BAD HERE.
I'M NOT SORRY FOR WHAT I DONE. I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT ANYONE. I HADDA KILL HIM.
I LIKED IT, IT WAS FUN, I LIKED KILLING...
WHAT A CREEP!

WHAT WAS THE HARM? I DIDN'T THINK LIKING A MAN, HAVING FUN WITH HIM, WOULD HURT ANYBODY...

I GUESS... I ALWAYS HATED YOU, HUGO.
I MEAN--YOU WENT OUT, YOU GOT DRUNK, YOU HAD GIRLS.
YOU DEFIED MOM AN' DAD. ME, I WANTED TO DO THOSE THINGS, BUT I COULDN'T!
I COULDN'T DEFY THEM! I'M SO... JEALOUS OF YOU!
GOSH, HECTOR... I DIDN'T KNOW! AN' I'M SORRY, BUT...
I JUST COULDN'T STAND THEIR RULES! JUST LIKE IF I'M HAVING FUN HERE, I DON'T FEEL LIKE I HAVETA GO OVER THERE FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER!


BUT WE GOTTA GO!
HEY, BABY, YOU SPIN THAT MAGIC YOU GOTTA DELIVER!
BUT... THE TELEPHONE... I'M EXPECTING A CALL...
YEAH, RIGHT. THAT KINDA CALL SHOULDA COME TWENTY YEARS AGO, FOR YOU.
NAH. ALL YOU GOT IS MY TYPE. AN' WE DON'T WASTE OUR QUARTERS.

I JUST SAW A MUGGING! RIGHT OUTSIDE THE BAR!
SO WHAT'D YOU DO?
DO? NOTHIN'! I WATCHED.

WHAT'D I DO? WHAT A JOKER.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
I SEE SOME BIG EVIL THUG, I'M SUPPOSED TO PLAY HERO?

THEM THUGS AN' BULLIES ARE THE FACE OF EVIL ITSELF, I DON'T GO NEAR THAT STUFF.

NOT A FACE LIKE--
--THAT.
DO YOU THINK IT MATTERS?
IF YOU BETRAY OR YOU DON'T, IF YOU CROSS A LINE OR YOU DON'T?
CAN ONE PERSON'S ACTS REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
YOU'RE A HERO. THINK YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
THINK, WITH YOUR FINGER ON THE SCALES, YOU COULD EVER SHIFT THE WEIGHT OF EVIL OVER TO THE *OTHER* SIDE, EVEN A FRACTION?
I...I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE. I DON'T KNOW IF I MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, IN THIS BAR.
ME--I THINK IT'S TOO LATE FOR THE WORLD.
THE APPLE'S ROTTEN.
THERE'S NO GOING BACK.

SOMEONE TOOK A BITE.
AND IT'S BEEN ROTTEN EVER SINCE.
COME ON! YOU'RE GOING HOME!
THE FAMILY --IT'S IM-PORTANT!
NO! I DON'T WANT TO! I WON'T BE TRAPPED BY THEIR RULES!
BUT MOM COOKED! DAD EXPECTS US!
YOU'RE ALWAYS RUINING EVERY-THING!
YOU RUIN THE WHOLE FAMILY!
LOOK, I DON'T CARE! I'M THE BLACK SHEEP, THE BAD APPLE--
--I WANNA HAVE MY FUN!
THAT'S TOO EASY! IT'S TOO EASY TO HAVE FUN!
IT'S SELFISH! YOU WON'T RUIN ANOTHER HOLIDAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
K-
SKSSH!

FORGET THE WORLD, DAREDEVIL.
LET SOMEONE ELSE BE THE HERO.
TAKE A BITE. BE SELFISH--
--KISS ME.
HECTOR, NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GOD, HECTOR! I'M YOUR BROTHER!
UNGH! STOP!
YES, YOU'RE MY BROTHER--
--AND I HATE YOU!
HEY! HE'S STABBING HIM!
SOMEBODY STOP HIM!
HELP! SOMEONE HELP!
AK... AGK... NO... GOD HELP ME... HECTOR...

OH, GOD...
HOW HORRIBLE...
WELL, LOOK AT THIS.
MONEY, UP AND DOWN THE BAR.
UNATTENDED CASH.
YOURS FOR THE TAKING.
NO ONE WILL NOTICE.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT?
WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

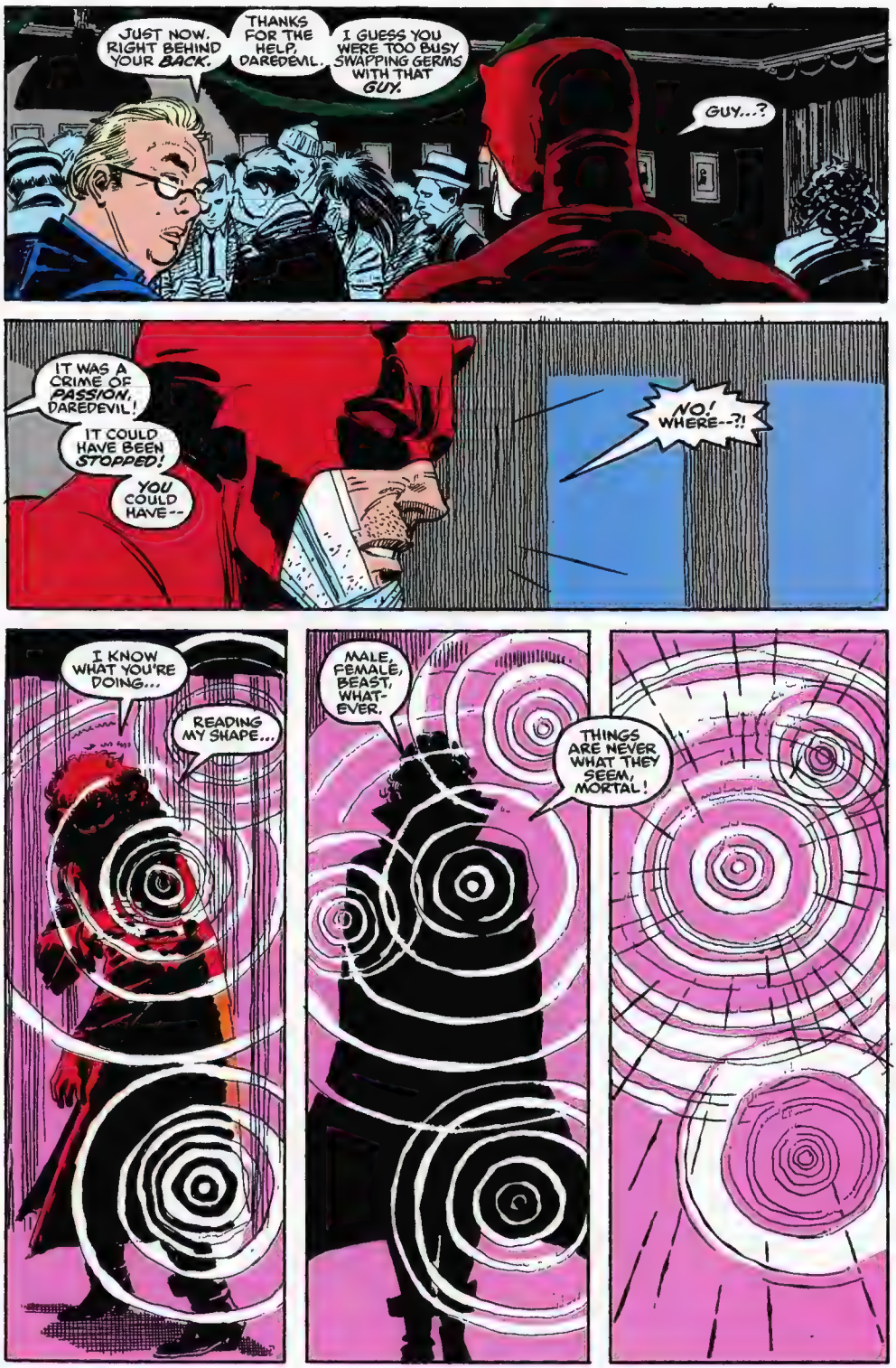
CAN THEY STOP THE BLEEDING?
THEY'RE TRYING...
WHY DO YOU ASK ME QUESTIONS LIKE THAT?
ABOUT CROSSING LINES, ABOUT BETRAYAL? WHY DO YOU SEDUCE ME?
IS HE?
YES. HE'S DEAD.

YOU SEEM SO YOUNG, YET YOU WERE IN STRANGE COUNTRIES IN ALL THE WRONG YEARS...

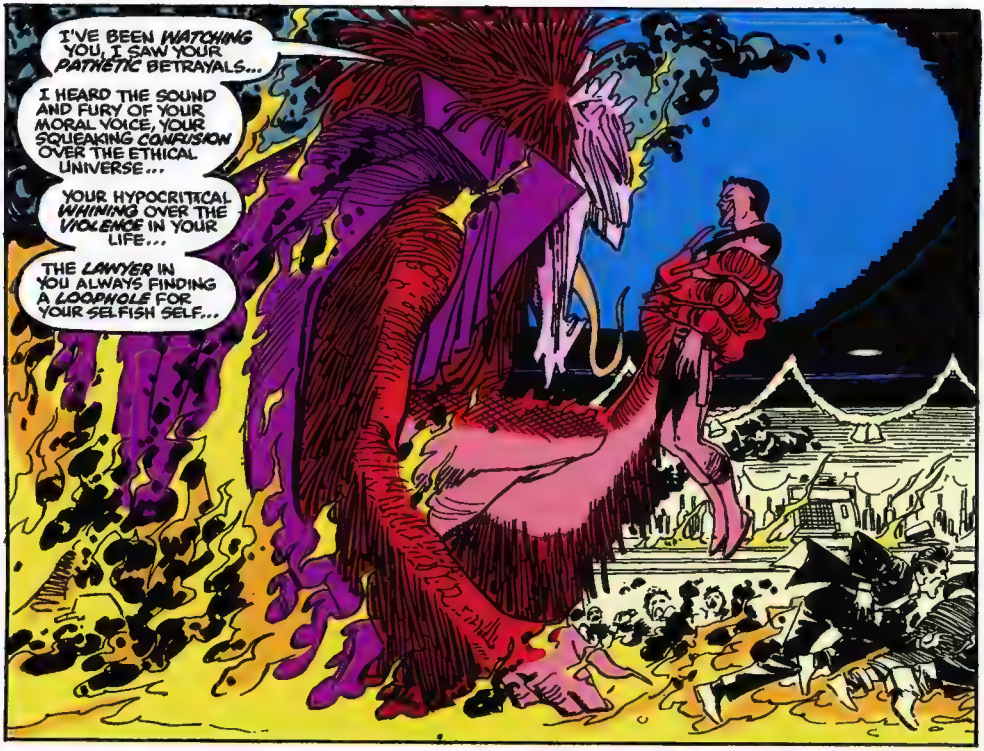
YOUNG YET OLD, FULL OF CRYPTIC TALK...

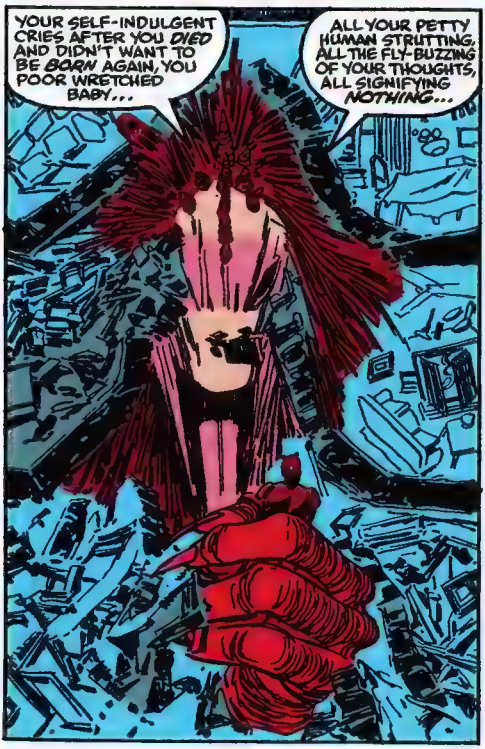
WHERE IS EVERYONE? WHY DO YOU SEDUCE ME...
NO...

K-VOK!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
HUGO... MY BROTHER! HUGO HUGO HUGO...
WHAT?
WHEN... WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?


JUST NOW, RIGHT BEHIND YOUR BACK.
THANKS FOR THE HELP, DAREDEVIL.
I GUESS YOU WERE TOO BUSY SWAPPING GERMS WITH THAT GUY.
GUY...?
IT WAS A CRIME OF PASSION, DAREDEVIL!
IT COULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED!
YOU COULD HAVE--
NO! WHERE--?!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING...
READING MY SHAPE...
MALE, FEMALE, BEAST, WHATEVER.
THINGS ARE NEVER WHAT THEY SEEM, MORTAL!

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD PUNCH AWAY--
MEPHISTO?!
A TRUE MERRY CHRISTIAN WOULD HAVE TURNED THE OTHER CHEEK!
HAHAHAHAHAHA!

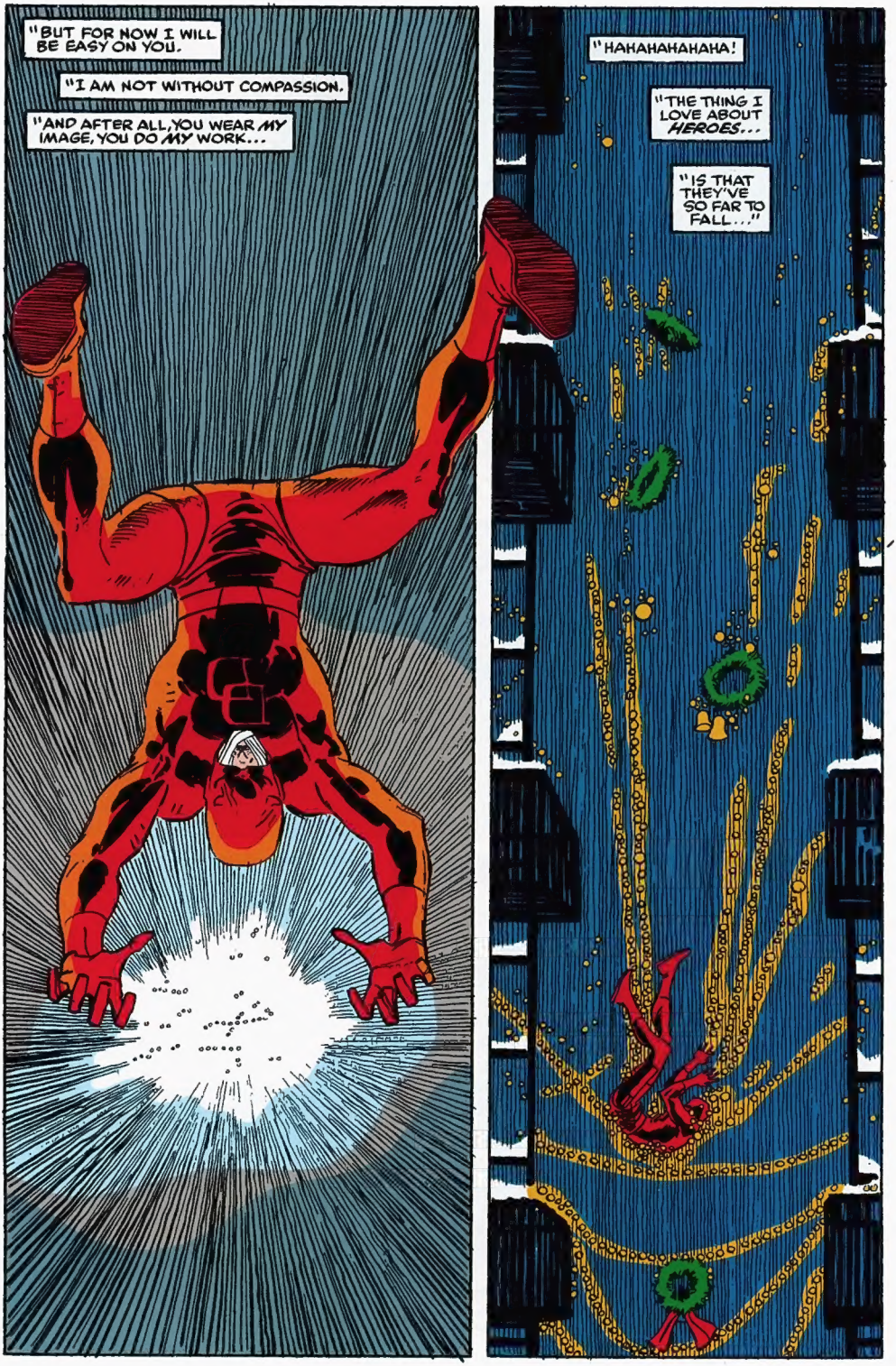

I'VE BEEN *WATCHING* YOU, I SAW YOUR *PATHETIC* BETRAYALS...
I HEARD THE SOUND AND FURY OF YOUR MORAL VOICE, YOUR SQUEAKING *CONFUSION* OVER THE ETHICAL UNIVERSE...
YOUR HYPOCRITICAL *WHINING* OVER THE *VIOLENCE* IN YOUR LIFE...
THE *LAWYER* IN YOU ALWAYS FINDING A *LOOPHOLE* FOR YOUR *SELFISH* SELF...


YOUR SELF-INDULGENT CRIES AFTER YOU *DIED* AND DIDN'T WANT TO BE *BORN* AGAIN, YOU POOR WRETCHED BABY...
ALL YOUR PETTY HUMAN STRUTTING, ALL THE FLY-BUZZING OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ALL SIGNIFYING *NOTHING*...

HAHAHAHAHAH!
HOW IT ALL MADE ME LAUGH!
WHAT A GRAND ENTERTAINMENT YOU HAVE BEEN TO ME!

DO YOU SEE, DAREDEVIL, HOW *IMMENSE* EVIL IS?
YOU *USED* TO BELIEVE, THAT *ONE* MAN, NO MATTER HOW *SMALL*, COULD *FIGHT* EVIL.
COULD *DEFY* IT, STAND UP TO IT, AND THAT YOU *GROW* TO AN *ENORMOUS* SIZE BY THAT VERY SMALL *DEFIANCE*.
BUT YOU'RE FORGETTING THAT, DAREDEVIL.
YOU'RE ALMOST *MINE*, DIABLO.
ONE DAY, I'LL TIP THE SCALES, AND YOU'LL WELCOME ME INTO YOUR ARMS, YOU'LL *EMBRACE* ME, REDMAN, WILLINGLY, LIKE YOU JUST DID IN THE BAR.

"AND ON THAT DAY, GOD HELP THE HECTORS AND HUGOS OF THE WORLD.
"THEY'LL ALL BE STABBING EACH OTHER, OVER AND OVER AND OVER...
"BITING INTO APPLES...
"BROTHER KILLING BROTHER...
"OVER AND OVER AND OVER...
"AND WHAT WILL BE THERE TO STOP THEM?
"NOTHING.
"A SPECK OF RED. A SHRUNKEN FLASH OF COLOR. A SMALL BIT OF GRIT, OF DRIFTING DUST.
"A NOTHING."


"BUT FOR NOW I WILL BE EASY ON YOU.
"I AM NOT WITHOUT COMPASSION.
"AND AFTER ALL, YOU WEAR MY IMAGE, YOU DO MY WORK...
"HAHAHAHAHAHA!
"THE THING I LOVE ABOUT HEROES...
"IS THAT THEY'VE SO FAR TO FALL..."

SPUTKZ!
OH, MY. HE WAS IN THE BAR.
YEAH. I THINK HE'S HAD A ROUGH DAY. SHOULD WE...?
YES. UP YOU GO!
DAREDEVIL? WE'RE GOING OVER TO THE SOUP KITCHEN.
FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER. WANNA COME?
I...
SURE.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! WE'LL HAVE US A FINE MEAL!
MERRY CHRISTMAS